

lead the Universidad de Bogota Jorge Tadeo Lozano to excellence as their president from 1969 to 1972.

In addition to Ambassador Lleras' impressive academic achievements, he has also pursued other fields of interest with the same tenacity. He has been the president of numerous organizations, such as the Edible Grase and Oil Producers Federation and the National Federation of Automobile Dealers. Ambassador Lleras has also been the honorary president of the Colombian Society of Business Administrators, president of the Advisory Committee of the Colombian Institute of Foreign Trade for the reform of the Andean Pact and a columnist for the "El Tiempo" newspaper in Bogota. In 1993 he became cojudge for the Constitutional Court and within a year he was a precandidate for the Presidency of Colombia with the liberal party.

Though the United States and Colombia have not always seen eye to eye, I am proud to say that we have worked together through these differences, and Ambassador Lleras has played a pivotal role in this dichotomy. Having spent several years in Colombia during the 1960's in the Peace Corps, I am reassured knowing that he will be returning to his wonderful and beautiful homeland, with a renewed interest in serving the people of Colombia. As Ambassador, he pulled together the Returned Peace Corps volunteers who have formed Friends of Colombia to begin a continued co-partnership to help the Peace Corps spirit to flourish. During his tenure I have developed a close and strong liaison with Ambassador Lleras and I will not only be sad to see him leave on a personal level, but also for the sake of the Colombian people, whom he has so well served for the past 2 years.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join with me today in honoring Ambassador Lleras, a very rare and special individual who combines the best of both the academic and professional worlds. Throughout his life, and especially during the past 2 years, Ambassador Lleras has been committed to the ideals of leadership based upon the principle of compassion. Ambassador Lleras is a true public servant and will be dearly missed. I wish him well in his future endeavors.

CAPT. JOE TUCKER—DISTINGUISHED VETERAN, DEDICATED FATHER, HOMETOWN HERO

HON. MAC COLLINS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 12, 1996

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to salute Capt. Joe Tucker who is the Chief Naval Instructor at the Henry County High School in Georgia's Third District. This retired U.S. Coast Guard officer recently demonstrated a level of courage, compassion, and heroism for which we all can be proud. Captain Tucker is the kind of role model that our children need and deserve.

Today, I am submitting for inclusion in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD an account of events that occurred, appropriately enough, on Memorial Day at the High Falls State Park. This account, from the front page of the Henry Herald on June 19, 1996, is in the words of 11-year-old Andrew Tucker who can better relate

the full meaning of the events of that day than any newspaper writer or I could possibly hope. This story pays tribute to a fine uniformed officer, teacher, role model, and father—Captain Joe Tucker.

MY DADDY'S A HERO

(The Henry Herald, 6/19/96)

I'm Andrew Tucker. I'm reporting about my dad. It all started when my mom and dad and me were coming back from Indian Springs. We decided to go to High Falls Park to go swimming. We had never been there before. Lots of people were swimming in the river and walking on the rocks. Millions of signs around High Falls said not to go on the rocks.

We were walking near the waterfall when we heard a lady say "Can anybody swim?" My dad looked kind of strange because we all thought someone was drowning, but the lady didn't sound very excited. Then we saw a boy in the water, trying to come up for air and waving his arms real slowly, but then went under the water and didn't come back up. Then the lady said, "there is another one in the water."

My dad just took off his hat and glasses and his shoes, and he went in with all of his clothes on. It looked like the water was six feet deep, but my dad later said that it was about 12 feet. My dad dove in, but it was too deep. So he had to go down feet first and feel around the bottom.

He found something soft so he dove under, and it was a little girl! The current was pushing her down between rocks. She had been under there for five minutes. After six minutes you are a goner if you are under water. She was under for about five minutes when my dad brought her up.

He did mouth-to-mouth (resuscitation), or CPR. She was a little black girl. But then a man named Sam Jordan that we had talked to before came to help with the boy. They brought the girl up the hill where I was.

By that time my mom was yelling, "Has anyone got a cellular phone?" The people were just sitting there. I don't know why. She ran up the hill to the pool to get a lifeguard to call 911. The lifeguard came running down like a rocket with no shoes on. They carried the girl up the river bank.

When I saw the little girl, I thought she was dead. She looked dead. She wasn't moving and her eyes were closed. I felt sad when I saw her.

They laid her down on the ground. There were lots of people sitting on blankets, watching, and lots of people crowding around.

Then I saw her arms move, and then she opened her eyes. It seemed like a long time before she could sit up. Then I knew she was going to be fine. She talked, but I don't think she knew where she was. I was really glad that she was alive.

My dad stuck with that little girl. I think he was worried that she might not make it. I'll bet the girl may not go swimming for a long time!

By that time the boy started to get up and walk. They took both children and put them in an ambulance and drove away. We talked to Sam Jordan about the girl. They thanked my dad and said he was there at the right time.

I looked back at the river where before there were lots of people swimming and playing. Now there was just water and rocks.

Right there, where the two kids were drowning * * * was a sign that said, "DO NOT GO ON THE ROCKS! GO IN THE WATER AT YOUR OWN RISK!" I don't know why people don't obey the signs; then they would be okay.

We went to a place where Dad could put on dry clothes. I found a flat rock. I decided to

write "HIGH FALLS, 1996" on it and give it to Dad so he could remember what he did on that day.

When we got home, I told everybody at school that my dad saved a little girl's life.

INTRODUCTION OF RUNAWAY AND HOMELESS YOUTH AMENDMENTS OF 1996

HON. MATTHEW G. MARTINEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 12, 1996

Mr. MARTINEZ. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to introduce, with my colleagues Mr. KILDEE and Mr. SCOTT, the administration's proposal to reauthorize the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act.

It is estimated that 1.3 million young people run away or are homeless each year. Since 1974, the services funded by the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act have meant the difference between life and death for young people living on the streets. The basic centers program has provided safe havens which seek to help reunite families. The transitional living services have provided older homeless youth, who do not return to their families, with the skills needed to make a successful transition to an independent adulthood.

The Runaway and Homeless Youth Amendments of 1996 maintain the commitment to youth in crisis by authorizing a comprehensive effort that combines the resources of the basic centers program and the transitional living grant program. This initiative also makes use of current drug abuse prevention and education services, as well as various demonstration projects and targeted grant programs authorized by the act. However, grants for the prevention of sexual abuse and exploitation of runaway, homeless, and street youth are kept separate.

Assistance for runaway and homeless youth will be improved with the elimination of fragmented services and funding. Under this legislation, grantees will be able to provide a variety of services, but they must supply short term shelter, long term residential services, or both. At least 20 percent of the funding will be set aside at the national level to ensure that the critical, and often costly, transitional living services for older homeless youth are continued. In addition, either through referrals or on-site programs, to address the drug abuse and alcoholism that plague many of the young people who come to them for help.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation goes a long way toward addressing the multifaceted issues that runaway, throwaway, and homeless youth face. I am honored to be its sponsor.

CALPERS GENERAL COUNSEL
RETIRES

HON. ROBERT T. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 12, 1996

Mr. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased and proud today to pay tribute to Richard H. Koppes, who at the end of this month will retire from his position as general counsel and deputy executive officer of the